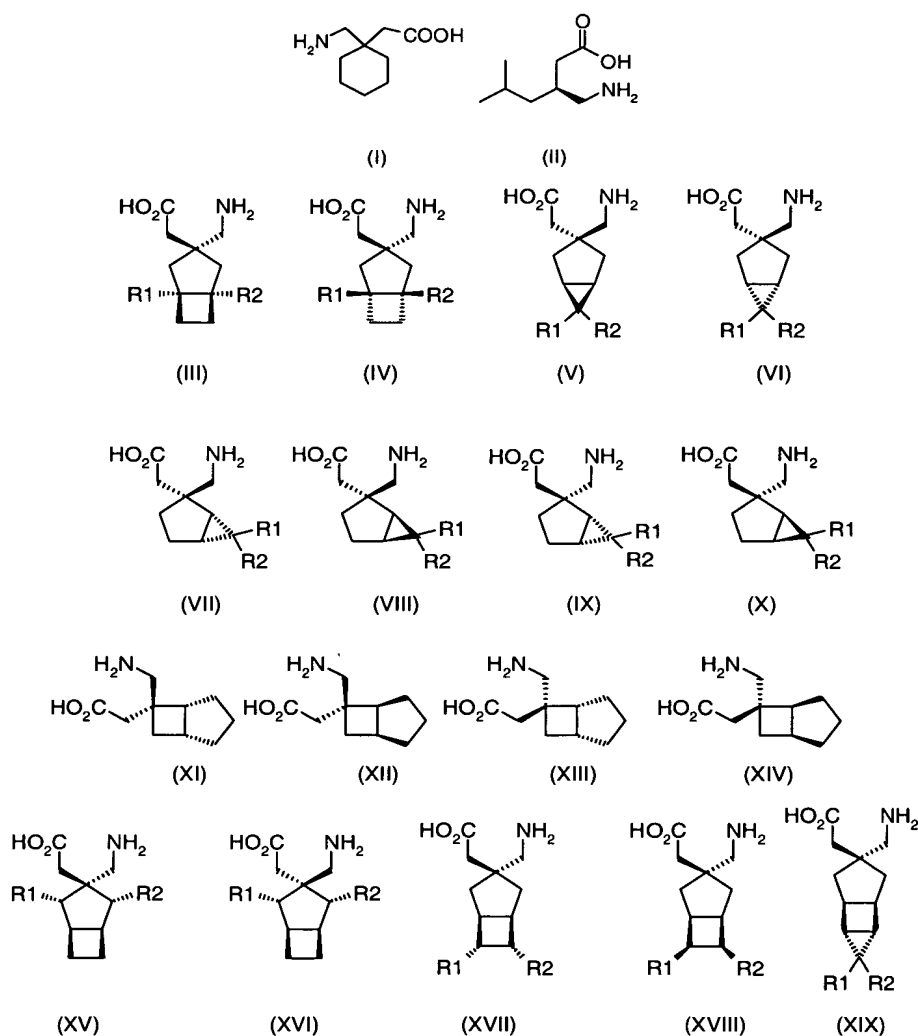
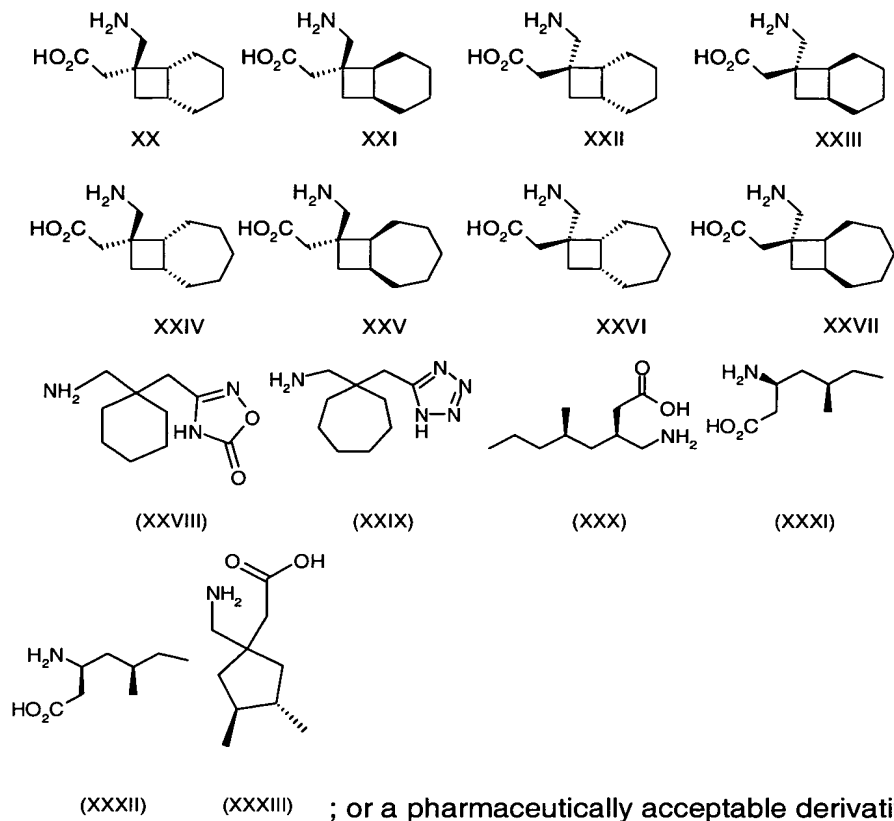


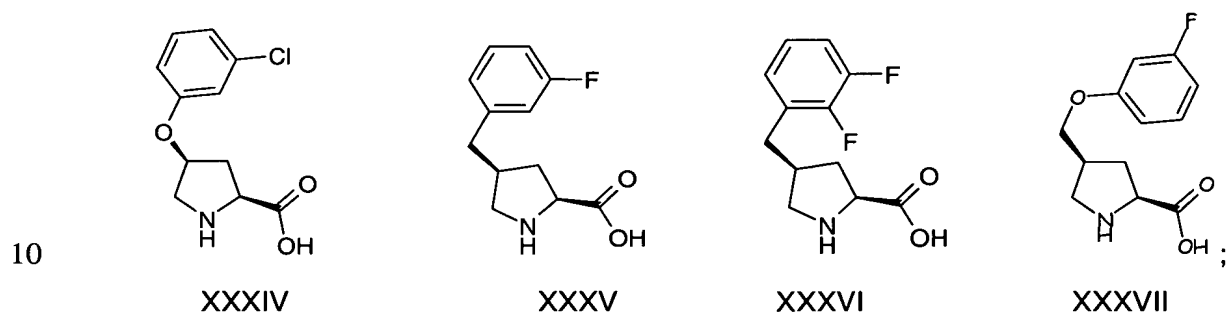
CLAIMS:

1. Use of an alpha-2-delta ligand, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of premature ejaculation.
2. Use according to claim 1 wherein administration is on as needed basis
3. Use according to claims 1 or 2 where the alpha-2-delta ligand is selected from:

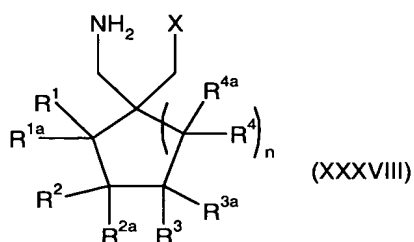




5 thereof, wherein R¹ and R² are each independently selected from H, straight or branched alkyl of 1-6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of from 3-6 carbon atoms, phenyl and benzyl, subject to the proviso that, except in the case of a tricyclooctane compound of formula (XVIII), R¹ and R² are not simultaneously hydrogen;



compounds of formula (XXXVIII):



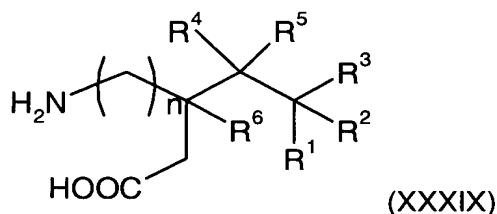
wherein X is a carboxylic acid or carboxylic acid bioisostere;

n is 0, 1 or 2; and

R¹, R^{1a}, R², R^{2a}, R³, R^{3a}, R⁴ and R^{4a} are independently selected from H and C₁-C₆ alkyl, or

- 5 R¹ and R² or R² and R³ are taken together to form a C₃-C₇ cycloalkyl ring, which is optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from C₁-C₆ alkyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

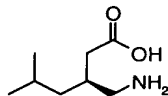
Compounds of formula (XXXIX):



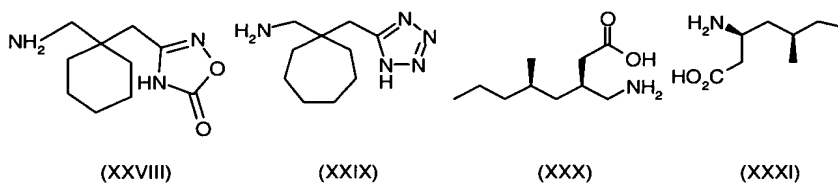
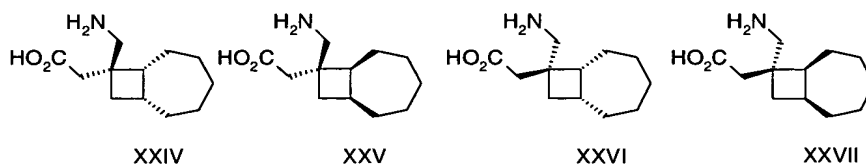
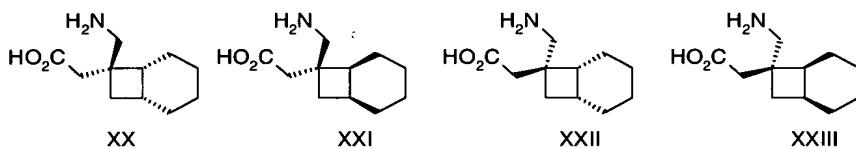
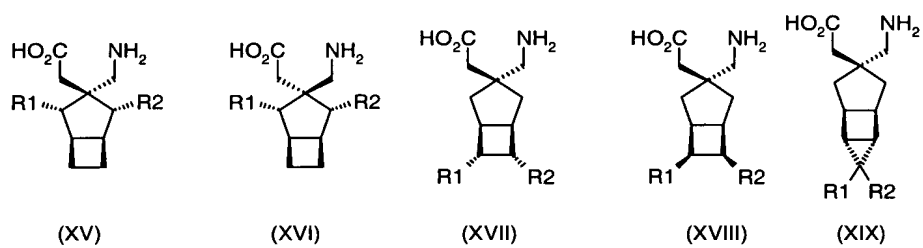
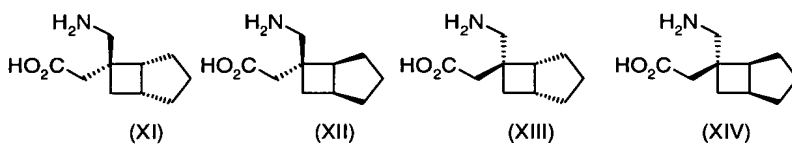
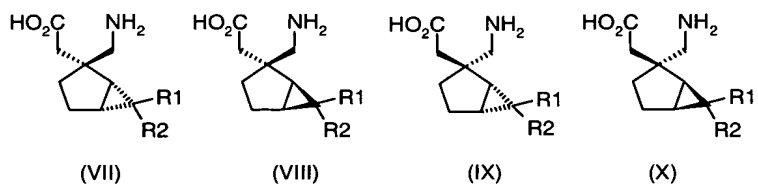
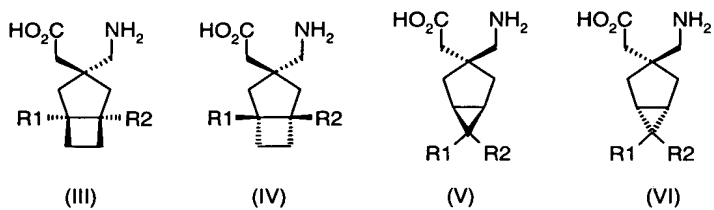
wherein:

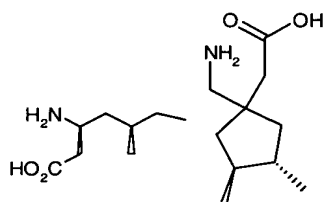
n is 0 or 1, R¹ is hydrogen or (C₁-C₆)alkyl; R² is hydrogen or (C₁-C₆)alkyl; R³ is hydrogen or (C₁-C₆)alkyl; R⁴ is hydrogen or (C₁-C₆)alkyl; R⁵ is hydrogen or (C₁-C₆)alkyl and R⁶ is hydrogen or (C₁-C₆)alkyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. Use according to claims 1 or 2 where the alpha-2-delta ligand is selected from:



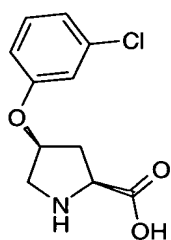
(II)



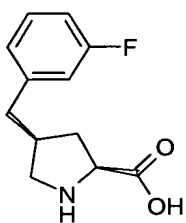


(XXXII) (XXXIII) ; or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative

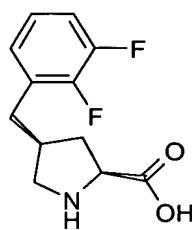
thereof, wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently selected from H, straight or branched alkyl of 1-6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of from 3-6 carbon atoms, phenyl and benzyl, subject to the proviso that, except in the case of a tricyclooctane compound of formula (XVIII), R^1 and R^2 are not simultaneously hydrogen; and



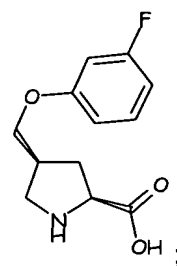
XXXIV



XXXV

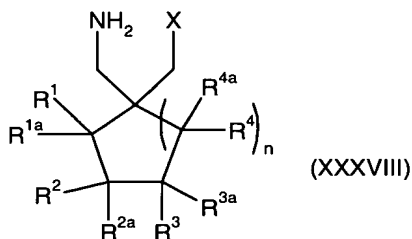


XXXVI



XXXVII

10 compounds of formula (XXXVIII):

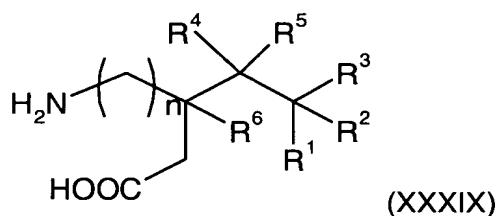


wherein X is a carboxylic acid or carboxylic acid bioisostere;

n is 0, 1 or 2; and

R^1 , R^{1a} , R^{2a} , R^{3a} , R^4 and R^{4a} are H and R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from H and methyl, or R^{1a} , R^{2a} , R^{3a} and R^{4a} are H and R^1 and R^2 or R^2 and R^3 are taken together to form a C₄-C₅ cycloalkyl ring, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

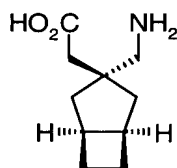
Compounds of formula (XXXIX):



wherein:

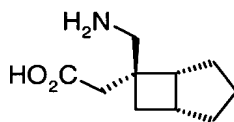
R¹ is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl or n-butyl, R² is methyl, R³ – R⁶ are hydrogen and n is 0 or 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein compounds are in the 3S,5R configuration.

5. Use according to claims 1 or 2 where the alpha-2-delta ligand is selected from: pregabalin (II), (1 α ,3 α ,5 α)(3-amino-methyl-bicyclo[3.2.0]hept-3-yl)-acetic acid (III'),



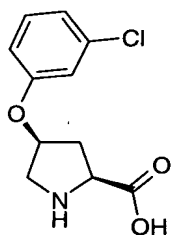
(III')

[(1R,5R,6S)-6-(Aminomethyl)bicyclo[3.2.0]hept-6-yl]acetic acid (XI); and



(XI)

- 15 (2S, 4S)-4-(3-Chloro-phenoxy)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid (XXXIV)



(XXXIV)

- 5
6. Use according to claims 1 or 2 where the alpha-2-delta ligand is is [(1R,5R,6S)-6-(Aminomethyl)bicyclo[3.2.0]hept-6-yl]acetic acid or (2S, 4S)-4-(3-Chloro-phenoxy)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid.
7. Use according to claims 1 or 2 where the alpha-2-delta ligand is is [(1R,5R,6S)-6-(Aminomethyl)bicyclo[3.2.0]hept-6-yl]acetic acid
- 10 8. A method of treating premature ejaculation comprising administering an alpha-2-delta ligand, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, to a patient in need of such treatment.
9. A method as claimed in claim 8, where administration is on an as needed basis.
- 15 10. A method according to claims 8 or 9, wherein said ligand is as defined in any of claims 3 to 7.
- 20 11. A pharmaceutical product containing an alpha-2-delta ligand and an additional therapeutic agent as a combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in the treatment of premature ejaculation.
12. A product as claimed in claim 11 where the alpha-2-delta ligand is as defined in any of claims 3-7

25

30

35